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27 June 1984

NOTE FOR: AD/ALA3Fus

Jane:

Would you please provide Dick with, at a minimum, something he can get back to Hugh Montgomery with on the attached. Should probably coordinate with OGI.

Thanks.

EA/ADDI

cc: OGA

25X1

DDI- 63711/84

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH
WASHINGTON

June 26, 1984

~~SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: Treatment of Foreign Students in Cuba

Q26
In the attached memorandum, Elliott Abrams asks for a CIA study on the living conditions of foreign students in Cuba. The subject was briefly alluded to in the very useful DDI research paper of August 1983 entitled "The Cuban Educational Assistance Program: An Investment in the Third World," but few details were given. I suspect we may have a problem of inadequate source material, but I would appreciate anything you could do to provide Elliott Abrams with a fuller treatment of the subject.

*We appreciate any help you can
give us — many thanks!*

Hugh Montgomery

Attachment:
as stated

~~SECRET~~
DECL: OADR

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

SECRET

CTT
pls handle

June 14, 1984

MEMORANDUM

TO: INR - Mr. Hugh Montgomery
FROM: HA - Elliott Abrams
SUBJECT: Alleged Slave Labor Conditions of Foreign Students
in Cuba

Hundreds of young people from various African countries are in Cuba for the ostensible purpose of furthering their education. However, the allegation has been made that at least some of these young people have been lured to Cuba under false pretenses, and that they are being kept under virtual conditions of slavery to do farm work. The enclosed letter which I recently received from a Ghanaian exile organization makes that point very vividly.

I do not know how widespread this type of "educational exchange" is between Cuba and Africa or other Third World countries, or to what extent such forced labor conditions exist among foreign students in Cuba. If forced labor is involved, however, it definitely is a human rights violation, and we want to do what we can to end it through diplomatic and public measures.

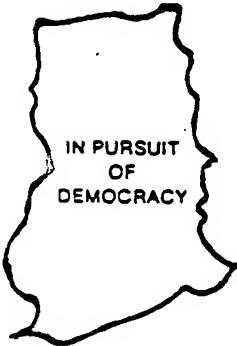
In order for us to get an accurate picture of the living conditions of Third World students in Cuba, it would be very helpful if the CIA could do a research paper on this subject. If facts emerge which indicate a serious and widespread practice of human rights violations, we will want to have a declassified version of the paper in order to take up the issue with the foreign governments concerned or possibly to use with the media. I would appreciate it very much if you could arrange for such a research project to be undertaken.

Enclosure:

As Stated.

SECRET
DECL: OADR

United Front for the Liberation of Ghana (USA)



P.O. BOX 507 - CHURCH STREET STATION
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10008

May 25, 1984

Mr. Elliot Abram
Under Secretary of State for Human Rights
United States State Department
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

The above-named organization consists of Ghanaian citizens resident in the tri-state area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Its main objective is to strive for the restoration of democracy, the rule of law and a sense of decency in Ghana.

As you are undoubtedly aware, since December 31, 1981, our country has been under the throes of a brutal military junta headed by an eccentric former officer of the Ghana Air Force - Flt-Lt. Jerry John Rawlings.

The extent of persecution, indiscriminate harassments, arrests and detentions and wanton killings by this regime is simply unimaginable. However, for now, this organization wishes to bring to the attention of the present U.S. Administration, through your office, a matter of grave concern that affects the fate of about six hundred Ghanaian children who are now in Cuba

Sometime in August of last year, the junta in Ghana, in collaboration with the Cuban Embassy in Accra, Ghana, lured about six hundred Ghanaian children - ranging from ages eight to eighteen - to Cuba, ostensibly to further their education.

However, it has now come to light that these children are being used for purposes other than educational. For example, this organization has obtained a copy of a letter written to a third party by one of the children in Cuba. The said letter indicates that the children are being used as virtual slaves on the Isle of Youth. (Copy of the same is hereto attached for your study. To make for easier reading, a type-written copy has been added).

The UNITED FRONT views this as very crucial, not only with regards to the future of these unfortunate children - who are being used as pawns in the forcible attempts by the Rawlings junta to Cubanize Ghana - but also in the cases of hundreds of parents in Ghana who have been hoodwinked by a Rawlings/Cuban grand conspiracy.

This organization wishes to appeal to the Reagan Administration, through your office, to help in the repatriation of these children to Ghana. As the letter states, three of them have recently died (there are also reports that eight died sometime last year). It is possible that, if action is not taken soon, more of them will succumb to the vigorous regimentation they

..2

I am with much happiness to write you these few words of mine.

.....
Mr..... I am now in Cuba, and I will tell you how I got there. I was in Ghana when a friend of my mother, came and told her that there's a scholarship to Cuba and he wants me to go and learn there so he made the arrangements and I was selected. They made an exam also and I passed.

We left Ghana on the 24th of August for Cuba. On our journey, we stopped at Senegal to fill the plane-fuel, there we spent an hour and the pilot took off till we came to Havana, Jose Marti airport. From there we went straight to the shipport and we were taken hundred miles away from Cuba and the place we went was an Island. At first when we came to the school, the buildings were dirty and there were many bushes, mosquitoes, the place was nasty. The Cubans started to make the school clean but the conditions were even getting worse:
(1) The food (2) the money is not sufficient (3) skin diseases and sickness (4) the Cubans and the Ghanaian masters have been beating us (5) if you are seriously sick and you not taken to the hospital you'll die, the director of the school will say in Cuba everything is planned so they've got specific time to move the buses and also if you go to the nurse, she will tell (a las doce) meaning you should come in the afternoon (6) because of such things three of our students are dead. Mr..... right now the situation is more worser than the first.

.....
(7) When I came I was having many things but the Cubans has stolen some because we didn't expect them to be thieves but now we've realise. They've stolen some of my things because when I was coming, I brought 9 trousers, 9 T-shirts, and 4 shirts. Mr....., the Cubans stoled 6 of the trousers, 7 T-shirts and 1 shirt and my shoe also. Mr... as I am writting this letter, I've not got any proper dress to wear. Mr.... when we were in Ghana, the Cuban Ambassador told us that we are not going to work but when we came, we started to weed. Mr.... nowadays we're been forced to weed and also on a roll there might be 35 trees and the grass are very hard to cut. Mr..... they also made a law that if you don't go to farm, you will not eat that day because they said some students have been dodging farm.....

HEROES DEL B
LA VICTORIA
ISLA DE LA
JUVENTUD
CUBA

Hello Mr. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I am with much happiness to
write you these few words to him. He
is in good condition of health and business
here with the grace of the Almighty

things are going well. I think he

I know the one who wrote you this letter

through the CIA. He is a good man

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Began to fill the plane fuel, there was
 spent an hour and the plane took off till we came
 to Havana, Jose Marti Airport. From there we
 went straight to the Shippport and we were
 taken
 hundred miles toward from Cuba and the place
 we were in Tigray and the first when we
 came to the School, the buildings were dirty and
 there were many bushes, mesquites, the place
 was, nasty. The Cubans started to make the
 School clean but the conditions were even
 getting worse. ① The food at the moment is not
 sufficient ② Skin diseases and ~~other~~ Sickness
 ③ the Cubans and the ~~Spaniards~~ masters have been
 beating us ④ if you're seriously sick and you're not
 taken to the hospital you'll die, the director of
 the School will say in Cuba everything is planned
 so they've got specific time to move the buses
 and also if you go to the nurse, she will tell
 (a lot doct) meaning you should come in the
 afternoon ⑤ because of such things three of
 our students are dead. Mr. ~~now~~ right now
 the situation is more worse than the first

~~and went to the forest to go to school I was there~~
~~and there was a lot of trees and a lot of~~
~~waterfalls and a lot of animals~~
~~and there was a lot of~~ When I came I was having
many things but the Cubans has stolen some because
we didn't expect them to be thieves but now
we've realize they've stolen ~~many~~ of my things
they ~~had~~ because when I was coming, I brought
9 trousers, 4 T-shirts, one ~~T~~ shirt, ~~one~~
~~one~~, the Cubans has stolen 6 of the trousers
7 T-shirts and 1 shirt and my shoes also. ~~and~~
as am writing this letter, I've got not a gun
proper dress to wear Mr. ~~they~~ when we were in
Ghana the Cuban ambassador told us
that we are not going to ~~work~~
~~work~~ work but when we came, we started
work. Mr. ~~they~~ nowadays we're been forced to
work and also in fact there might be 35 trees
and the ~~green~~ grass are ~~very~~ very hard
cut. Mr. ~~they~~ they also made a law that if
you don't go to farm, you ~~will~~ ~~will~~ be ~~not~~
that day the cows they said some student
have been killed when